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ABSTRACT

This report provides statistics on students discharged as dropouts during the 1984-85 school year. Annual dropout percentages are presented for individual high schools, for all high schools, and system-wide. In addition, the projected four-year dropout rate is presented for the high schools and for all schools in the system serving students age 14 and over. Dropouts are defined as those students who left school without receiving a diploma, who did not enroll in another educational setting, and who have not been counted as dropouts in previous years. The major finding reported is that, for the first time since the school system began producing annual dropout reports in 1978, there has been a clear decline in the dropout rate. A total of 9.4 percent of the city's 261,000 high school students were first-time dropouts in 1984-85, as were 10.3 percent of the 307,000 students age 14 and over, system-wide. Improvement occurred in every part of the school system, particularly among students making the transition from middle to high school. Accompanied by an increase in the rate of high school graduates, the decline in the dropout rate indicates that the school system is increasing its holding power. The report includes five statistical tables and four appendices: (1) a description of study procedures; (2) admission and discharge codes; (3) history of dropout accounting in New York City; and (4) data on dropouts and graduates, 1984-85. (KH)

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THE 1984-1985 DROPOUT REPORT

OEA Analytic Report

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Analytic Report
O.E.A. Data Analysis Section
Raymond Domanico, Administrator
February, 1986

THE 1984-85 DROPOUT REPORT

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SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Analyses of the dropout statistics for the 1984-85 school year indicate that, for the first time since the school system began producing annual dropout reports in 1978, there has been a clear improvement in the dropout rate. A total of 9.4 percent of the city's 261 thousand high school students were first-time dropouts in 1984-85, as were 10.3 percent of the 307 thousand students age 14 and over, system-wide. Extrapolated over four years, these yield four-year dropout rates of 32.5 percent for the high schools and 35.3 percent system-wide, or decreases of 5.9 and 6.6 percentage points, respectively. The substantial improvement in the dropout rate indicates that the school system is making progress in its efforts to deal with this serious problem.

Improvement occurred in every part of the school system serving students age 14 and over, and particularly among students making the transition from middle school to high school. The decrease in the school system's dropout rate was accompanied by an increase in the number and proportion of students successfully completing their educations by receiving a high school or equivalency diploma.

Dropouts are defined as those students who left school during the 1984-85 school year without receiving a diploma, who did not enroll in another educational setting, and who have not been counted as dropouts in previous years. Students who left school and then enrolled in programs leading to the high school equivalency diploma are not considered dropouts, unless they drop out from the high school equivalency program. This definition is consistent with the one used in the last two annual dropout reports and matches that used by the State Education Department.

Expanding on a procedure that was introduced in the 1983-84 dropout report and following State Education Department high school re-registration practices, this year's analyses considered additional data sources to confirm the status of dropouts. Students identified by the State Education Department as having received high school equivalency diplomas, those who re-enrolled in school in September or October, 1985, or those who were successful participants in adult education programs operated by the Board's Office of Adult and Continuing Education were not counted as dropouts. The improvement in the dropout rate reflects the school system's focus on dropout prevention: approximately half may be attributed to better methods of following up on students, the other half may be attributed to dropout prevention programs.

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THE 1984-85 DROPOUT REPORT

BACKGROUND

This report provides statistics on students discharged as dropouts during the 1984-85 school year. The statistics presented here are based on individual student records maintained by the Student Information Services section of the Office of Data Processing Coordination. These records include information on a student's current situation as well as previous admissions and discharges; information on each student's history in the school system is used to distinguish first-time dropouts from students who have left the school system as dropouts before. Previously, students who dropped out of school by June 30 and then returned to school in the fall were still counted as dropouts. For the 1984-85 report, those dropouts who had re-enrolled and were in school on October 31, 1985 were not counted as dropouts. This is in keeping with New York State Education Department high school re-registration practices.

Annual dropout percentages are presented for individual high schools, for all high schools, and system-wide. In addition the projected four-year dropout rate is presented for the high schools and for all schools in the system serving students age 14 and over.

The report addresses the following questions:

- How many and what proportion of New York City public school students were first-time dropouts in 1984-85?

- What schools did they attend? For what reasons did they drop out? How many students graduated during the same time period?

- How many students dropped out of school for the first time during the 1984-85 school year and then re-enrolled in Fall 1985? How many were identified by the State Education Department as having received high school equivalency diplomas (G.E.D.s)? How many enrolled in adult education programs?

- Based on the number of dropouts during 1984-85, what is the estimated proportion of ninth-graders who successfully complete their high school educations? What is the proportion who drop out?

- How do the dropout statistics for 1984-85 compare with those for 1983-84?

- What was the total number of students age 14 and over who left school in 1984-85? For what reasons?

Background materials and documents are found in the Appendices.

FINDINGS

High School and System-wide Dropout Rates

Analyses of 1984-85 data showed notable improvement in both the high school and system-wide dropout rates. A total of 9.4 percent of the city's 261 thousand high school students were first-time dropouts in 1984-85, as were 10.3 percent of the 307 thousand students age 14 and over system-wide. Extrapolated over four years, these yield dropout rates of 32.5 percent for the high schools and 35.3 percent system-wide. These figures represent improvements of 5.9 and 6.6 percentage points over the 1983-84 rates which were 38.4 percent for high schools and 41.9 percent system-wide.

Tables 1 and 2 present the computation of the dropout rates; a complete presentation of all procedures and definitions appears in Appendices A and B.

Progress was apparent in every part of the school system. There were 16.7 percent fewer dropouts from day high schools, 23,494 in 1984-85, compared to 28,207 in 1983-84. Dropouts from retrieval programs decreased by 20.9 percent; there were 4,796 in 1984-85 and 6,066 in 1983-84. There were 14.6 percent fewer dropouts from intermediate and junior high schools, 1,227 in 1984-85, compared to 1,436 in 1983-84. Dropouts from special schools decreased by 14.8 percent; there were 1,558 in 1984-85, compared to 1,829 in 1983-84. There were 53.6 percent fewer dropouts among students moving from middle school to high school, 569 in 1984-85 compared to 1,266 in 1983-84. Although this last group represents relatively few students, the improvement is noteworthy because of the importance to students of the transition from middle school to high school.

Comparability of the 1984-85 and 1983-84 Dropout Rates

The methodology and definitions used in this report match those used in the 1983-84 and 1982-83 reports. However, in preparing the 1984-85 dropout statistics three additional data sources were examined to confirm the status of students included as dropouts. Findings for the high schools indicated that of the 27,580 students who had been

Table 1

Computation of Dropout Rate for New York City High Schools
1984-85

All First-time Dropouts	
From Day High Schools	26,360
From Retrieval Programs (Left Day High School 1984-85)	1,220
Subtotal	27,580
Application of 1984-85 Follow-up Procedures	
Additional G.E.D. Information from State Education Department	(1,093)
Re-enrolled in N.Y.C. Public Schools in September or October 1985	(1,736)
Re-enrolled in Adult or Continuing Education in 1984-85	(255)
Total Confirmed First-time Dropouts	24,496
Population Base for Rate Calculation	
Official Register for Academic High Schools	223,921
Official Register for Vocational High Schools	32,556
Official Register for Alternative High Schools	4,977
Total	261,454

Estimation of Dropout Rate

$$\text{Annual Dropout Percentage} = \frac{24,496}{261,454} = 9.37 \text{ percent}$$

Annual Survival Rate = 100.00 - 9.37 = 90.63 percent

Four-year Projected Survival Rate = (.9063 x .9063 x .9063 x .9063) = .6747

Four-year Projected Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .6747 = .3253 = 32.5 percent

NOTE: For reference purposes, in 1983-84 there were 29,775 first-time dropouts and a population base of 261,453, for an annual dropout percentage of 11.4 percent and a projected four-year rate of 38.4 percent. Had the three types of follow-up data been available for 1983-84, we estimate that the annual dropout percentage would have been one percentage point lower and the projected four-year dropout rate would have been three percentage points lower that year.

Table 2

Computation of System-wide Dropout Rate
for New York City Public Schools
1984-85

All First-time Dropouts from N.Y.C. Schools	35,284
Application of 1984-85 Follow-up Procedures	
Additional G.E.D. Information from State Education Department	(1,215)
Re-enrolled in N.Y.C. Public Schools in September or October, 1985	(2,097)
Re-enrolled in Adult or Continuing Education in 1984-85	(328)
Total Confirmed First-time Dropouts	31,644
Population Base for Rate Calculation	
High School Enrollment, including Retrieval Programs	272,618
Ninth-Grade Students in Junior High Schools	26,640
Special Schools Students, Age 14 and Over (Estimated)	7,732
Total	306,990

Estimation of Dropout Rate

$$\text{Annual Dropout Percentage} = \frac{31,644}{306,990} = 10.31 \text{ percent}$$

Annual Survival Rate = 100.00 - 10.31 = 89.69 percent

Four-year Projected Survival Rate = (.8969 x .8969 x .8969 x .8969) = .6471

Four-year Projected Dropout Rate = 1.0000 - .6471 = .3529 = 35.3 percent

NOTE: For reference purposes, in 1983-84 there were 38,804 first-time dropouts and a population base of 306,075, for an annual dropout percentage of 12.7 percent and a projected four-year rate of 41.9 percent. Had the three types of follow-up data been available for 1983-84, we estimate that the annual dropout percentage would have been one percentage point lower and the projected four-year dropout rate would have been three percentage points lower that year.

identified as first-time dropouts, 1,093 had received G.E.D.s, 1,736 had re-enrolled in New York City schools in September or October 1985, and 255 were successful participants in adult basic education or high school equivalency programs operated by the Office of Adult and Continuing Education, and thus were no longer dropouts. Similarly, out of 35,284 dropouts system-wide, 1,215 had received G.E.D.s, 2,097 re-enrolled, and 328 entered adult education programs. Had similar analyses been used to confirm the status of dropouts in 1983-84, it is likely that the four-year projected rates for high schools and system-wide would have been about three percentage points lower than previously indicated.

Dropout Discharge Categories

The discharge records of over two-thirds (68.6 percent) of the students who dropped out showed only that they were over 17 and had their parents' consent to leave school. In addition, 12.3 percent were discharged to other educational settings without confirmed admission; 10.4 percent left school for employment, job training, or military service; and 8.7 percent were not found after a search by the Bureau of Attendance. This pattern was the case for dropouts from all programs except middle school and Project Reentry students; these students were most frequently discharged as not found. Table 3 presents reasons for dropout discharge for students from each type of program.

Table 3

First-time Dropouts From New York City Public Schools
By Program and Type of Discharge, 1984-85

	Confirmed First-time Dropouts	
Dropouts From Day High Schools		
Employment Certificate	952	
Job Corps or Vocational Training Center	633	
Business or Trade School	678	
Military Service	189	
Discharged to Auxiliary Services without Confirmed Admission	1,349	
Discharged to Outreach Center without Confirmed Admission	308	
Discharged to Evening High School without Confirmed Admission	1,237	
Other Over 17	16,107	
Not Found	2,041	
Total Day High School Dropouts		23,494
Dropouts from Retrieval Programs		
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	270	
Discharged to New Setting without Confirmed Admission	73	
Other Over 17	4,411	
Not Found	42	
Total Retrieval Program Dropouts		4,796

NOTE: These figures reflect the identification of G.E.D. recipients, students currently active or discharged in non-dropouts categories, and adult or continuing education students in good standing.

Table 3
(continued)

First-time Dropouts From New York City Public Schools
By Program and Type of Discharge , 1984-85

	Confirmed First-time Dropouts	
Dropouts From Special Schools		
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	142	
Discharged to New Setting without Confirmed Admission	25	
Other Over 17	1,167	
Not Found	224	
Total Special Schools Dropouts		1,558
Dropouts From Intermediate and Junior High Schools		
Not Found	876	
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	126	
Other over 17	215	
Discharged to New Setting without Confirmed Admission	10	
Total I.S. and J.H.S. Dropouts		1,227
Project Reentry Students		
Not Found	357	
Employment, Job Training, Military Service	36	
Other Over 17	164	
Discharged to New Setting without Confirmed Admission	12	
Total Project Reentry Dropouts		569
Total		31,644

NOTE: These figures reflect the identification of G.E.D. recipients, students currently active or discharged in non-dropout categories, and adult or continuing education students in good standing.

All Students Discharged from New York City Schools

In order to provide additional context for the dropout statistics, data presented in Table 4 show the total number of students age 14 and over who left school in 1984-85 and their reasons for discharge. Of the 102 thousand students discharged in 1984-85, 47 percent completed their educations, an increase of 2.6 percentage points over 1983-84. Confirmed first-time and previous dropouts accounted for 35.6 percent of all discharges, a decrease of 5.1 percentage points from 1983-84. The remaining 17 percent were discharged in non-dropout categories.

School-by-School Counts of Dropouts and Graduates

Table 5 presents individual school data for academic and vocational high schools, arranged by superintendency, and data for alternative high schools. Data include the number of dropouts, number of graduates, enrollment, and the annual dropout percentage for each school.

CONCLUSIONS

Analyses of the dropout statistics for the 1984-85 school year indicate that although the number of New York City students who do not complete their educations remains a serious problem, the dropout rate has clearly improved over previous years. Four-year dropout rates for 1984-85 were 32.5 percent for the high schools and 35.3 percent system-wide, as compared to 1983-84 rates of 38.4 percent for the high schools

Table 4

All Students Age 14 and Over Who Left School in 1984-85

Discharge Category	Number of Students	Percent of All Discharges
Completed H.S. Education		
Graduated *	41,996	41.1
Received Equivalency Diploma	5,822**	5.7
Early College Admission	126	0.1
Completed H.S. Special Education Program	74	0.1
	48,018	47.0
Enrolled in New Educational Setting		
Parochial School	1,565	1.5
Private School	1,153	1.1
Institutionalized	953	0.9
Adult or Continuing Education	379	0.4
G.E.D. Preparation	1,100	1.1
Home Instruction	62	0.1
	5,212	5.1
Other		
Moved from New York City	12,033	11.8
Deceased	180	0.2
Over 21	359	0.3
	12,572	12.3
Dropped Out		
First-time Dropout	31,644	31.0
Previous Dropout	4,643	4.6
	36,287	35.6
Total Discharges	102,089	100.0

NOTE: These figures reflect the identification of dropouts who were G.E.D. recipients, currently active or discharged in non-dropout categories, or adult education students in good standing.

* From Division of High Schools 1985 "Annual Report on Graduates."

** Includes 4,394 G.E.D.s reported by schools and 1,428 reported by the S.E.D. The S.E.D. data included 1,215 students who would otherwise have been classified as first-time dropouts; this is the number referenced in Table 2. The 1983-84 dropout report showed 4,221 G.E.D.s; as these were all reported by schools, this figure is comparable to the 4,394 G.E.D.s reported by schools in 1984-85.

and 41.9 percent system-wide. Although the improvement in the dropout rate is in part a result of the availability of additional data, it also clearly reflects greater attention to dropout prevention through efforts such as the system-wide Attendance Improvement/Dropout Prevention initiatives introduced in 1984-85.

In addition to the present report which provides basic statistics, there will be several other reports prepared by O.E.A. which deal with dropouts in 1984-85. Reports are planned which will provide information on the characteristics of dropouts, including sex, age, grade, and participation in programs such as vocational/occupational education or school athletics. There will also be evaluation reports on the progress of programs providing remediation and support to at-risk students.

Finally, O.E.A. is conducting a pilot study which follows an entire cohort of entering high school students over the course of their high school careers. The cohort methodology will address many of the same issues examined in this and other reports, and will also provide for the most accurate and comprehensive treatment of dropout data.

Table 5

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools
1984-85

School	Dropouts	Oct.'84 Register	Dropout Percentage	Graduates
Math and Science	1	728	0.1	32
Humanities	20	966	2.1	*
Seward Park	513	4,017	12.8	579
Washington Irving	328	2,805	11.7	365
George Washington	494	3,232	15.3	345
Louis D. Brandeis	434	3,204	13.5	512
Stuyvesant	11	2,663	0.4	707
Julia Richman	492	3,361	14.6	468
F. H. LaGuardia	49	2,626	1.9	508
Martin Luther King, Jr.	349	2,151	16.2	231
Murry Bergtraum	57	2,815	2.0	543
Park West	417	3,053	13.7	475
A. Philip Randolph	21	1,369	1.5	140
Fashion Industries	151	1,895	8.0	282
Chelsea	110	1,108	9.9	144
Norman Thomas	145	2,878	5.0	568
Graphic Comm. Arts	136	1,877	7.2	148
Art & Design	41	1,914	2.1	357
Mabel D. Bacon	68	1,314	5.2	232
Manhattan	3,837	43,976	8.7	6,636
Morris	386	2,040	18.9	161
Herbert H. Lehman	232	2,274	10.2	392
William H. Taft	570	2,887	19.7	279
Christopher Columbus	294	2,763	10.6	532
James Monroe	339	2,242	15.1	239
Evander Childs	441	3,299	13.4	463
Walton	370	3,614	10.2	510
Theodore Roosevelt	1,072	4,107	26.1	354
Dewitt Clinton	349	4,135	8.4	275
Bronx H.S. of Science	8	3,196	0.3	695
Adlai E. Stevenson	457	4,646	9.8	519
Harry S. Truman	152	2,452	6.2	494
South Bronx	186	1,151	16.2	121
John F. Kennedy	492	5,223	9.4	891
Alfred E. Smith	184	1,407	13.1	172
Jane Addams	111	1,511	7.3	240
Samuel Gompers	114	1,826	6.2	211
Grace Dodge	168	1,994	8.4	330
Bronx	5,925	50,767	11.7	6,878

* Humanities did not have a graduating class in 1984-85.

Table 5

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools
1984-85
(continued)

School	Dropouts	Oct.'84 Register	Dropout Percentage	Graduates
Midwood	69	2,399	2.9	588
Samuel J. Tilden	199	2,869	6.9	553
James Madison	215	3,159	6.8	559
Thomas Jefferson	230	2,145	10.7	222
Prospect Heights	152	2,411	6.3	280
New Utrecht	305	3,081	9.9	463
Erasmus Hall	315	3,491	9.0	497
George W. Wingate	279	2,733	10.2	374
Bushwick	335	2,455	13.6	245
Sheepshead Bay	185	2,595	7.1	433
Canarsie	176	2,048	8.6	435
Franklin D. Roosevelt	323	3,196	10.1	514
South Shore	184	3,627	5.1	605
Edward R. Murrow	49	3,026	1.6	655
John Dewey	92	3,457	2.7	548
Clara Barton	67	2,429	2.8	461
East New York	98	1,519	6.5	135
Alexander Hamilton	23	227	10.1	173
William H. Maxwell	152	1,595	9.5	232
Brooklyn	3,448	48,462	7.1	7,972
Lafayette	352	2,407	14.6	368
Abraham Lincoln	173	2,192	7.9	426
Brooklyn Technical	97	4,204	2.3	933
Boys and Girls	455	3,537	12.9	282
John Jay	364	2,707	13.4	386
Eastern District	696	3,870	18.0	416
Bay Ridge	43	265	16.2	227
Fort Hamilton	332	2,864	11.6	498
George Westinghouse	47	2,053	2.3	235
Automotive	129	1,486	8.7	172
William E. Grady	115	1,834	6.3	182
Eli Whitney	294	2,014	14.6	184
Sarah J. Hale	269	2,212	12.2	298
New Dorp	208	3,401	6.1	577
Port Richmond	106	2,736	3.9	546
Curtis	185	2,049	9.0	282
Tottenville	183	3,986	4.6	853
Susan Wagner	115	2,645	4.3	510
Ralph McKee	48	1,324	3.6	260
BASIS	4,211	47,786	8.8	7,635

Table 5

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools
1984-85
(continued)

School	Dropouts	Oct.'84 Register	Dropout Percentage	Graduates
August Martin	64	2,355	2.7	339
Beach Channel	169	2,439	6.9	480
Benjamin Cardozo	114	2,478	4.6	498
Springfield Gardens	217	2,252	9.6	408
John Bowne	194	3,196	6.1	641
Francis Lewis	146	1,823	8.0	507
Martin Van Buren	76	2,211	3.4	551
Forest Hills	155	3,130	5.0	714
William C. Bryant	343	3,163	10.8	519
Long Island City	262	2,455	10.7	493
Newtown	388	4,272	9.1	766
Flushing	172	2,084	8.3	411
Far Rockaway	286	2,607	11.0	311
Jamaica	128	2,715	4.7	581
Richmond Hill	212	1,971	10.8	325
John Adams	306	3,298	9.3	512
Grover Cleveland	322	3,088	10.4	632
Andrew Jackson	343	3,433	10.0	478
Bayside	186	2,650	7.0	536
Hillcrest	201	3,380	5.9	662
Townsend Harris	0	238	0.0	*
Queens Vocational	118	1,246	9.5	139
Aviation	77	2,268	3.4	390
Thomas Edison	136	2,144	6.3	367
Franklin K. Lane	584	4,590	12.7	653
Queens	5,199	65,486	7.9	11,913

* Townsend Harris did not have a graduating class in 1984-85.

Table 5

Dropouts and Graduates From New York City High Schools
1984-85
(continued)

School	Dropouts	Total Register	Dropout Percentage	Graduates
Bronx Regional	88	437	20.1	70
City-As-School	103	658	15.7	202
Concord	19	316	6.0	41
H.S. Redirection	211	912	23.1	63
Lower East Side Prep	104	820	12.7	101
Middle College	35	605	5.8	88
Pacific	32	548	5.8	55
Park East	62	525	11.8	36
Satellite Academy	104	1,127	9.2	244
Street Academy	31	368	8.4	*
West Side	85	665	12.8	56
Total	874	6,981	12.5	956

* Street Academy did not have a graduating class in 1984-85.

NOTE: Total register is the opening period register plus all admissions during the year.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: PROCEDURES

DEFINITION OF DROPOUT

This report follows recent State Education Department guidelines in designating which students are counted as first-time dropouts. Accordingly, dropouts are those students who left school during the 1984-85 school year who did not re-enroll in another educational setting by November, 1985 and who had not been counted as dropouts in previous years. Students who left school and enrolled in programs which prepare them for the Test of General Educational Development (G.E.D.) leading to the high school equivalency diploma are not considered dropouts, unless they drop out from the G.E.D. program.

In New York City, students can be legally discharged from the school system once they reach age 17, and have parental consent to leave school. Students with employment certificates may leave at age 16. Students who are absent for long periods of time and who cannot be located by the Bureau of Attendance can be discharged as "not found." This report considers "not found" students age 14 or over to be dropouts.

HIGH SCHOOL AND SYSTEM-WIDE DROPOUT RATES

High School Dropout Rate

The following groups of students are included in the high school dropout rate:

- dropouts from academic, vocational, and alternative high schools; and
- dropouts from dropout retrieval programs who left an academic, vocational, or alternative high school during the same school year.

System-wide Dropout Rate

In addition to the students included in the high school dropout rate, the system-wide dropout rate includes:

- dropouts from intermediate and junior high schools;
- high school "no shows" who failed to appear at the high school to which they were assigned and were determined to be dropouts by the Bureau of Attendance;
- dropouts from special education schools; and
- dropouts from retrieval programs who did not leave a day high school during the same school year.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Day High Schools

Most students age 14 and over in New York City attend academic or vocational day high schools; in 1984-85 nearly 84 percent of the more than 300 thousand students between the ages of 14 and 21 attended one of these 100 schools. There are also 11 alternative high schools which served about 7,000 students who had experienced difficulties in other school

settings. Academic, vocational, and alternative schools all offer high school diplomas.

Evening High Schools

Approximately 20,000 students each semester attended one or more evening high school classes. About half of these were students simultaneously attending day high schools; the others had been formally discharged. Students discharged with three or fewer credits remaining are still eligible to receive a day high school diploma as "former students" when they complete their diploma requirements. Students who are four or more credits short of graduation when they are discharged from day high school are awarded an evening high school diploma when they complete their requirements.

Retrieval Programs

According to the 1984 annual audited register, approximately 11,500 students attended High School Division programs for students who have left regular day schooling. These retrieval programs include Auxiliary Services for High Schools (ASHS), Outreach Centers, as well as Literacy Centers for students with very low reading levels. For purposes of this report, the Schools for Pregnant Teens and the Substance Abuse Programs are also considered retrieval settings in that they serve students who have left other educational programs leading to a high school diploma. The retrieval programs, the day high schools, and the evening high schools are all

administered by the Division of High Schools.

Community School District And Project Reentry Students

A number of students age 14 and over remain outside the jurisdiction of the Division of High Schools. In 1984-85 these included: approximately 27 thousand ninth-graders in junior high schools; over-age students who had not yet moved on to high school because they had not completed the required full year on register in the final grade of intermediate or junior high school; and students who failed to appear at the high school to which they were assigned. This last group, the "no shows," are also known as Project Reentry students; if they do not eventually report to high school, they can be discharged as dropouts. Project Reentry students also include students who have been identified as at-risk of dropping out because of low attendance during the last year before high school.

Special Education Schools

Most special education students age 14 and over attend regular day high schools. The Division of Special Education also operates full-time programs for students whose handicaps preclude their participation in regular day high schools. These include the Occupational Training Centers for mentally handicapped students, day and residential treatment programs for emotionally handicapped students, and programs for students with physical or sensory impairments.

DROPOUT ACCOUNTING

Discharge Codes

The basic data from which the dropout statistics are derived are the regular reports of student admissions and discharges submitted by the pupil accounting secretaries in each school. This information is then used to update each student's cumulative computerized record; information which has been replaced is stored as "history."

Students may be discharged from New York City schools in one of over twenty categories; six are considered dropout discharges as such. These include: leaving school after obtaining an employment certificate; entering military service; attending a business or trade school; joining the Job Corps or other vocational training; not found after a search by the Bureau of Attendance; and all others over 17 who leave school with parental consent. Other students counted as dropouts are those discharged to a retrieval program or evening high schools without confirmed admission.

Non-dropout discharge codes include any confirmed transfer to another educational setting, including home instruction; moving from New York City; and several types of completion of one's high school career, such as graduation, early admission to college, receiving a high school equivalency diploma, and completion of the goals outlined on the special education I.E.P; and, new in 1984-85, reaching age 21. (For a listing of all discharge and admission

categories, see Appendix B.)

Dropout Counts

In order to determine the basic dropout count for the 1984-85 school year, all records for students between 14 and 21 years of age were examined. From these records the Office of Data Processing Coordination Student Information Services (O.D.P.C., S.I.S.) identified all students discharged as dropouts between September 1, 1984 and June 30, 1985 and in November, 1985 sent the schools a name-by-name listing for verification of each student's status as a 1984-85 dropout. O.D.P.C., S.I.S. also inspected the records of all students discharged to retrieval programs to confirm that all admissions to new settings had been recorded; any students whose admissions could not be confirmed are considered dropouts. Following the completion of these dropout verification procedures and updating of the students records, dropout counts were computed.

Differences in Dropout Accounting between 1983-84 and 1984-85

There are several changes in 1984-85 in procedures for dropout accounting. All have the effect of crediting the schools and school system for students who either continue or complete their education after having initially dropped out of school. All of the changes are also consistent with the S.E.D.'s practices when reviewing school retention rates for school registration purposes.

First, the 1984-85 dropout report does not count as dropouts any students who were active in the school system or who had been discharged in a non-dropout discharge category as of October 31, 1985. This methodology first identifies all students who dropped out of school in the 1984-85 school year and then searches for them in the October 31, 1985 version of the computerized student information system. Any students found in active status or in non-dropout discharge status are deleted from the count of dropouts.

Second, students who left the New York City Public Schools and enrolled in adult or continuing education programs are not counted as dropouts. The methodology is the same as extending the accounting year to October 31; all dropouts are identified and then any found on the adult education registers are deleted from the count of dropouts. (Students reported to have left their adult education program are not deleted from the dropout count.)

Third, students who left the New York City Public schools and subsequently received a G.E.D. from the S.E.D. are not considered dropouts. Until this year the only students credited with receiving a G.E.D. were those who reported this information to the schools themselves. However, this year the S.E.D. provided a computer file of all New York City residents who received G.E.D.s during the period September 1, 1984 to November 30, 1985. The status of any students found on this file can be updated to reflect the

G.E.D.; any dropouts who received the G.E.D. are removed from the count of dropouts.

Finally, the 1984-85 report has a more accurate accounting of students discharged to evening high schools. Evening high schools staff verified the admission of all students discharged to evening high schools. Only those evening high school students who did not graduate by Fall, 1985 or whose admission could not be confirmed are counted as dropouts. In the 1983-84 report all evening high school students who did not graduate were counted as dropouts.

Estimation of the Dropout Rate

Past reports have defined the dropout rate as the proportion of students who do not complete high school. The most direct way to calculate this rate would be to follow each year's entering ninth-graders as they proceed through school. However, since reliable, computerized data were not available until 1981-82, the first opportunity for such a cohort study did not occur until after the 1984-85 school year. Accordingly, as in previous years, this report uses a procedure known as the survival rate method to compute an estimate of the four-year dropout rate.

The survival rate method projects the annual dropout percentage over four years. One rationale for this method is as follows: if the high school population as a whole loses a certain proportion of its students each year, each grade, on

average, is also losing students at roughly the same rate. For example, if 10 percent of the students drop out in a single year, one may assume that roughly 10 percent of the students in each grade drop out each year; conversely, each year 90 percent remain. Applying this proportion over four years yields an estimated percentage of ninth-graders who complete high school as well as the corresponding percentage of students who drop out.

APPENDIX B: ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE CODES

ADMISSION CODE TABLE

Admission from another N.Y.C. public school.....50
Admission from N.Y.C. parochial school (not readmission)...51
Admission from Board of Education home instruction.....52
Readmission into the N.Y.C. public school system following formal discharge out of N.Y.C. public school system within the same school year.
- from parochial school.....53
- from other (private school, other cities, period of non-enrollment, etc.).....54

Readmission into the N.Y.C. public school system following formal discharge out of the N.Y.C. public school system in a previous school year.
- from parochial school.....55
- from other (private school, other cities, period of non-enrollment, etc.).....56

Admission-first time entrant into the N.Y.C. public school system, other than from parochial school (includes Kindergarten and Grade 1 new entrants and pupils from private schools, other cities, etc.....58

Discharge Codes as of September 1984:

DISCHARGE CODE TABLE

Admitted to other N.Y.C. Public School	00
Graduated (High School Diploma or Spec. Ed. Cert.)	01
Obtained Employment Certificate	02
Under 6 Years Old	04
Admitted to Parochial School	06
Admitted to Business or Trade School	07
Admitted to Private School	08
Private Instruction at Home (Non Bd. of Ed.)	09
In Institution (Non Bd. of Ed.)	10
Removal from New York City	11
Not Found	12
Deceased	15
Home Instruction (Bd. of Ed.)	17
Enrolled in a college Early Admission Program prior to graduation from high school	20
NEW 9/84 Over 21 Years Old	21

NOTE: The following codes have been deleted and may no longer be used: 03 (Over 17); 05 (Married); 25 (Beauty School) which is now included under Code 07.

"OVER 17" DISCHARGE CODE TABLE*

To be used in conjunction with official regulations for the discharge of students who are 17 years of age or older

Received New York State High School Equivalency Diploma	30
Enrolled in Auxiliary Services for the High Schools	31
Enrolled in an Outreach Center	32
Enrolled in a N.Y.C. Public Evening High School to continue work toward a High School Diploma	33
Enrolled in Job Corps or other similar vocational training program, including OVR	34
Entered Military Service	35
Enrolled in a full-time High School Equivalency program outside the New York City public school system	36
Special Education "High School Completer"	37
Other - Over 17, not included in any categories above	39

*On his/her 17th birthday, a student is considered to be "Over 17."

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APPENDIX C:

HISTORY OF DROPOUT ACCOUNTING IN NEW YORK CITY

HISTORY OF DROPOUT ACCOUNTING IN NEW YORK CITY

Until 1981-82, dropout statistics were based on tabulations of admissions, discharges, and graduates which were collected by the schools and submitted to the central offices of the Board of Education. With the establishment of a computerized student information system, the Biofile, it became possible to relate these data to individual student records, and to identify students who dropped out but then re-enrolled. The historical records on the Biofile also made it possible to avoid duplicate counts of students who dropped out, returned to school, and then dropped out again.

Since 1977-78 the school system has greatly expanded its student information system. Improved accounting procedures, data collection methods, and definitions of dropout codes have all contributed to an increasingly accurate presentation of dropout statistics. At the same time, such improvements reduce the comparability of the annual dropout estimate from one year to the next. However, findings from previous reports do give some indication of the magnitude of the problem. Projected four-year dropout rates, all of which were based on aggregate data, were as follows: for academic year 1977-78, 44.3 percent; for 1978-79, 47.3 percent; and for 1980-81, 46.8 percent. In 1981-82 two rates were reported; the first, computed in the same way as in the previous three years, was 45 percent, and the second, which did not count as dropouts any students who re-enrolled within

the same school year, was 41.4 percent. All figures from 1977-78 to 1981-82 refer only to students attending academic, vocational, and alternative day high schools.

In 1982-83, dropout accounting was expanded to include all students served by the school system who were of high-school age; i.e. 14 to 21 years. Data were gathered for community school district students attending intermediate and junior high schools, special education students, and students attending dropout retrieval programs designed for high-risk students. In order to provide more information about the reasons students leave school, additional discharge categories were defined for use by the schools. Finally, continuing with the procedure established in 1981-82, an attempt was made to include only first-time dropouts. The estimated four-year rate for day high schools was 38.4 percent and the rate for all programs serving students age 14 and over was 41.7 percent.

Procedures in 1983-84 were essentially the same as in 1982-83. The estimated four-year rate for day high schools was 38.4 percent and the rate for all programs serving students age 14 and over was 41.9 percent.

Past documents on the dropout rate include: The Dropout Report (October 16, 1979); High School Dropout Statistics, 1981-82 (March, 1983); Dropouts from New York Public Schools, 1982-83 (Spring 1984); and The 1983-84 Dropout Report, (Spring 1985).

APPENDIX D:

DROPOUTS FROM NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOLS, BY DROPOUT CATEGORY

Dropouts From New York City High Schools, By Dropout Category
1984-85

School	Employment, Job Training, Military	Discharged to New Setting Without Confirmed Admission	Other Over 17	Not Found	Total Dropouts
Math and Science	0	0	1	0	1
Humanities	4	2	13	1	20
Seward Park	93	40	377	3	513
Washington Irving	27	31	259	11	328
George Washington	28	48	418	0	494
Louis D. Brandeis	25	35	368	6	434
Stuyvesant	0	1	10	0	11
Julia Richman	26	27	437	2	492
F. H. LaGuardia	2	5	40	2	49
Martin Luther King, Jr.	25	39	271	14	349
Murry Bergtraum	9	0	41	7	57
Park West	21	12	382	2	417
A. Philip Randolph	2	1	14	4	21
Fashion Industries	11	9	124	7	151
Chelsea	7	3	96	4	110
Norman Thomas	4	15	126	0	145
Graphic Comm. Arts	3	4	128	1	136
H.S. Art & Design	3	4	33	1	41
Mabel D. Bacon	5	5	58	0	68
Manhattan	295	281	3,196	65	3,837
Morris	58	80	208	40	386
Herbert H. Lehman	3	0	226	3	232
William H. Taft	90	54	409	17	570
Christopher Columbus	36	32	226	0	294
James Monroe	42	34	236	27	339
Evander Childs	41	91	306	3	441
Walton	51	63	248	8	370
Theodore Roosevelt	147	89	99	737	1,072
Dewitt Clinton	25	50	252	22	349
Bronx H.S. of Science	1	2	5	0	8
Adlai E. Stevenson	64	64	249	80	457
Harry S. Truman	34	13	101	4	152
South Bronx	19	6	146	15	186
John F. Kennedy	42	13	385	52	492
Alfred E. Smith	23	21	140	0	184
Jane Addams	8	16	85	2	111
Samuel Gompers	20	11	69	14	114
Grace Dodge	27	92	20	29	168
Bronx	731	731	3,410	1,053	5,925

Dropouts From New York City High Schools, By Dropout Category
1984-85
(Continued)

School	Employment, Job Training, Military	Discharged to New Setting Without Confirmed Admission	Other Over 17	Not Found	Total Dropouts
Midwood	3	3	56	7	69
Samuel J. Tilden	18	28	144	9	199
James Madison	19	24	157	15	215
Thomas Jefferson	22	16	134	58	230
Prospect Heights	63	19	43	27	152
New Utrecht	36	8	230	31	305
Erasmus Hall	28	48	230	9	315
George W. Wingate	6	21	236	16	279
Bushwick	53	40	184	58	335
Sheepshead Bay	15	12	150	8	185
Canarsie	18	17	138	3	176
Franklin D. Roosevelt	29	1	280	13	323
South Shore	13	14	146	11	184
Edward R. Murrow	8	3	37	1	49
John Dewey	11	2	75	4	92
Clara Barton	2	15	40	10	67
East New York	10	14	72	2	98
Alexander Hamilton	4	2	17	0	23
William H. Maxwell	4	4	135	9	152
Brooklyn	362	291	2,504	291	3,448
Lafayette	23	108	219	2	352
Abraham Lincoln	20	54	96	3	173
Brooklyn Technical	6	25	46	20	97
Boys and Girls	67	113	266	9	455
John Jay	41	8	283	32	364
Eastern District	84	92	397	123	696
Bay Ridge	1	33	9	0	43
Fort Hamilton	8	1	298	25	332
George Westinghouse	18	7	22	0	47
Automotive	22	9	98	0	129
William E. Grady	10	31	70	4	115
Eli Whitney	24	67	192	11	294
Sarah J. Hale	26	27	200	16	269
New Dorp	21	50	126	11	208
Port Richmond	27	14	55	10	106
Curtis	18	32	120	15	185
Tottenville	14	3	162	4	183
Susan Wagner	16	30	67	2	115
Ralph McKee	6	12	30	0	48
BASIS	452	716	2,756	287	4,211

Dropouts From New York City High Schools, By Dropout Category
1984-85
(Continued)

School	Employment, Job Training, Military	Discharged to New Setting Without Confirmed Admission	Other Over 17	Not Found	Total Dropouts
August Martin	4	11	45	4	64
Beach Channel	23	38	101	7	169
Benjamin Cardozo	23	30	52	9	114
Springfield Gardens	26	42	137	12	217
John Bowne	22	68	102	2	194
Francis Lewis	8	13	112	13	146
Martin Van Buren	17	7	50	2	76
Forest Hills	18	6	123	8	155
William C. Bryant	18	22	274	29	343
Long Island City	7	87	154	14	262
Newtown	21	105	238	24	388
Flushing	23	30	114	5	172
Far Rockaway	23	8	235	20	286
Jamaica	18	24	84	2	128
Richmond Hill	21	23	157	11	212
John Adams	36	44	216	10	306
Grover Cleveland	81	10	216	15	322
Andrew Jackson	34	55	210	44	343
Bayside	14	35	132	5	186
Hillcrest	16	26	129	30	201
Townsend Harris	0	0	0	0	0
Queens Vocational	11	7	95	5	118
Aviation	4	1	66	6	77
Thomas Edison	10	28	98	0	136
Franklin K. Lane	21	48	488	27	584
Queens	499	768	3,628	304	5,199
Bronx Regional	20	4	64	0	88
City-As-School	5	2	95	1	103
Concord	3	6	10	0	19
H.S. Redirection	4	6	201	0	211
Lower East Side Prep	30	57	17	0	104
Middle College	2	2	31	0	35
Pacific	6	8	14	4	32
Park East	6	9	46	1	62
Satellite Academy	17	5	55	27	104
Street Academy	13	3	9	6	31
West Side	7	5	71	2	85
Alternative High Schools	113	107	613	41	874
Citywide Totals	2,452	2,894	16,107	2,041	23,494